

COUSINIA SUBPECTINATA (ASTERACEAE: PLATHYACANTHAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM W OF KERMAN PROVINCE

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Cousinia subpectinata is described and illustrated as a new species from Iran. This species is compared with its closest relative "*C. rechingerorum*". Also description of section *Plathyacanthae* is completed with morphological characters of this species.

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گونه جدید *Cousinia subpectinata* از بخش *Plathyacanthae* از غرب کرمان

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Cousinia subpectinata به عنوان گونه جدیدی از ایران شرح داده می‌شود. این گونه با نزدیکترین خویشاوند خود *Cousinia rechingerorum* مقایسه شده طرح و پراکنش جغرافیائی آن ارائه می‌شود. همچنین شرح بخش در ارتباط با این گونه تکمیل می‌شود.

Introduction

Recent field work at high mountains of Kerman province has added a new species to the genus of *Cousinia* Cass. one of the largest Irano-Turanian genera in Iran. This new species belongs to the section *Platyacanthae*. Some morphological characters of this species does not fit to the characters of section. With study of other species description of section is completed. This section has seven species which six of them are endemic to Iran. Former distribution of Iranian species has been in Khorasan province (Hezar-Masjed, Binaloud and Bezgh mountains, Kopet-Dagh in N. of Quchan and Bojnurd cities), but now extends to Kerman province as well.

Sect. *Platyacanthae* Rech. f. (Description completed)

Suffruticose-caespitose, with dried petioles at the base. Stem long, few-branched above, lateral branches exceeding the central. Leaves coriaceous, spinose-lobed, often crisped; basal leaves rosette; stem leaves not decurrent, reduced. Heads major, 80-100-flowered or more (in new species 40); bracts thick, rigid, coriaceous, wide, slightly constricted above the base into appendage (except *C. rechingerorum* Bornm. and new species); appendage wide, entire, with rigid long terminal spine. Corolla tube longer than the limb (up to twice).

Cousinia subpectinata Mirtadzadini, Attar & Assadi, **sp. nov.**

Perennis, pluricaulis, suffruticosa, collo squarroso basibus petiolorum persistentibus. Caulis 50-65 cm altus, albidus, substriatus, glabrescens, inferne floccosus, superne pauciramosus. Folia omnia coriacea, arachnoidea, concoloria vel vix discoloria, lamina lanceolata usque oblonga pinnatilobata vel pinnatifida, lobis triangularibus spinosis. Folia basalia petiolata, spinis inclusis c. 7x30cm, petiolo floccoso; folia caulina non

decurrentia, sessilia, basi semicordata, superiora sensim decrescentia. Capitula singula, terminalia, subcorymbosa, c. 40 flora, spinis inclusis usque 4cm diametro; involucri sine spinis 1.5x2cm., parce araneosum; phylla 35-55, exteriora crasse coriacea, rigida, triangularia lanceolata, supra basin leviter constricta, patentia, 24-27mm longa, prope basin 8mm. lata; intermedia usque ad 14cm longa, 5mm lata, ad basin constricta et ciliato-pectinata, \pm concava, subhorizontalia vel erecto-patentia, in spinam terminalem abrupte vel subsensim attenuata; phylla interiora herbacea, in parte superiore membranaceo-pallide brunnea, oblonga, apice apiculata, glaberrima; phylla intima linearia, tota membranacea. Receptaculi setae laeves, usque 16mm longae. Corolla rosea, c. 15mm. longa, tubo c. 7.5mm, limbo 5mm, laciniis 2.7mm longis. Antherarum tubus roseus, glaber. Achaenia 6.6mm longa, ovata vel oblonga, grisea, fusco-maculata, compressa, ecostata.

Typus. Kerman: Shahr-e Babak, Meimand, 2800m, M. Mirtadzadini 33501-TUH (Holotypus TUH).

Perennial, multistemmed, suffrutescent, covering with the remnants of petioles at the base. Stem 50-65cm, white, substrate, becoming glabrous, floccose in lower part, few branched above. All leaves leathery, arachnoid, concolored or slightly discolored, blade lanceolate to oblong, pinnatilobed vel pinnatifid; lobes triangular, spiny; basal leaves petiolate, including spines 7x30cm; stem leaves not decurrent, sessile, subcordate; upper leaves gradually reduced. Heads solitary, nearly corymbose, \pm 40-flowered, including spines up to 4cm in diam.; involucre without spines 1.5x2cm, sparsely cob webby; bracts 35-55; outers thick leathery, rigid, triangular-lanceolate, above base slightly constricted, spreading, 24-27mm long, near the base 8mm

Table 1. Comparison between *Cousinia subpectinata* and its related species.

Characteristics	<i>Cousinia subpectinata</i>	<i>C. rechingerorum</i>
Number of flowers	± 40	± 80
Number of bracts	35-55	25-30
Margin of outer bracts	Ciliate-pectinate	± entire
Involucre	1.5x2cm	3x3cm
Basal leaves	30x7cm	14x4cm

wide; median bracts up to 14cm long, 5cm wide, constricted and ciliate-pectinate, ± concave, almost horizontal or erect-spreading, abruptly terminating in spine above or gradually attenuate; inner bracts oblong, herbaceous, membranaceous-pale brown in upper part, apiculate, glabrous; innermost bracts linear, all membranaceous. Bristles of receptacle smooth, up to 16mm long. Corolla pink, ± 14mm long; tube 7.5, limb 5mm long, lobes 2.7mm long. Anther tube pink, glabrous.

Achene 6.6mm long, ovate or oblong, dark brown, dark-spotted, compressed, not ribbed.

This species is endemic to Iran and found in steppe of *Artemisia aucheri* at 2800m altitude. It is compared with its close relative *C. rechingerorum* in table 1.

Reference

Rechinger, K.H. 1972: *Cousinia* in K. H. Rechinger, *Flora Iranica*, no. 90: 77. -Graz.

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Fig. 1. *Cousinia subpectinata* (× 0.63).

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